National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation



Mountain Bike Trails



General Information

Mountain biking is a relatively new recreational activity at City of Rocks that has gained popularity over the last few years. Over 5 miles of bike trails take riders to many of the interesting and scenic areas of the reserve. Over 12 miles of gravel roads are also open to biking.

Many sections of trail pass through areas with highly erosional soils. Help protect City of Rocks by only using official trails, staying on marked trails, packing out any trash packed in, and by leaving natural features as you found them for others to enjoy. Take caution; many of the trails are rocky and traverse steep terrain.

Mountain Bike users share trails with hikers and horseback riders. At City of Rocks, horses have the right of way. Bikers yield to all users.

Mountain Biking Safety

Bicycles are permitted on all reserve roads and must obey the same rules and regulations that apply to motorized vehicles. Be advised that some roads are steep, narrow and lack shoulders. Ride on the right side of the road and be alert to traffic. Since roads are not paved they can become extremely dusty. Bicycles are not permitted in any backcountry areas.

From June to September cattle grazing is permitted in some areas. Be prepared to encounter livestock and be courteous of permittee operations. Leave gates as you find them.

For your safety and to help protect City of Rocks please remember the following guidelines:

Wear helmets, gloves, eye protection and brightly colored clothing.

- Pace yourself. You will be riding at higher altitudes.
- When descending, apply enough brake to maintain control, but avoid locking your bike's wheels.
- Always stay on designated roads and trails.
- Pack it in, pack it out.
- Ride in the middle of the trail to minimize impact.
- Cross creeks at fording points only. Do not ride up and down creeks.

Mountain Biking Routes

Biking is permitted only on the Stripe Rock Loop Trail and the Tea Kettle Trail.

Stripe Rock Loop is 3 miles and begins on the east side of the reserve. Trail highlights include: views of Steinfell's Dome, Circle Creek Overlook, access to Building Blocks, Bucket Land, Stripe Rock, and Cyclops. Suggested Route: Enter trail at East Entrance Parking Area. Travel northwest on access trail and road to Circle Creek Overlook, and join North Fork Circle Creek Trail. Complete Stripe Rock Loop and travel back to parking area. Five miles of total distance traveled.

Tea Kettle Trail is 2.5 miles and located on the west side of the reserve. Trail highlights include: two overlooks of the inner city, access to Private Idaho and Nematode. Trail access is available at Bread Loaves and Elephant Rock. Suggested Route: Enter trail at Bread Loaves, descend southeast on Tea Kettle Trail, and exit trail at Elephant Rock. Connect into reserve road and ride northwest back to campsite 62. Follow trail back to the Bread Loaves. Five miles of total distance traveled.

For a longer ride, follow reserve and county roads for a 13 mile loop. Suggested Route: Park and enter reserve road at Bath Rock. Descend south on reserve road and travel to junction. At junction join road traveling southwest towards Twin Sisters. When road reaches a dead end, travel north on county road to next junction. At City of Rocks sign turn east at junction. Follow road back to Bath Rock.